

# Inside Seven

DECEMBER 2000 / JANUARY 2001

**Caltrans** DISTRICT 7 EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

GRAY DAVIS, GOVERNOR

MARIA CONTRERAS-SWEET, SECRETARY OF BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY  
ROBERT W. SASSAMAN, DISTRICT 7 DIRECTOR

JEFF MORALES, DIRECTOR

## LOS ANGELES HOSTS DIRECTOR JEFF MORALES' MEETING



*Caltrans Director Jeff Morales (sixth from left) and Tim Buresh, representing the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (fifth from left), tour the Alameda Corridor with Headquarters personnel, District Directors and staff.*

Caltrans District 7 was pleased to host Director Jeff Morales' recent statewide meeting with his Headquarters staff including twelve District Directors and their staff members. The group assembled in Los Angeles at the Century Maintenance Station near the Glenn Anderson Freeway (105)/San Diego Freeway (I-405) Interchange. The meeting included presentations from each Division Chief, a tour of the Alameda Corridor and programs and activities designed to provide information as well as foster teamwork, camaraderie and partnership as Caltrans works together to increase mobility for California's commuters and goods movement.

Some of the participants present at the meeting included Caltrans Deputy Director, Tony Harris, and District Directors including: Rick Knapp, District 1; Thom Niesen, District 2; Irene Itamura, District 3; Harry Yahata, District 4;

Jay Walter, District 5; Bart Bohn, District 6; Robert W. Sassman, District 7; Stan Lisiewicz, District 8; Thomas P. Hallenbeck, District 9; Mark Leja, District 10; Gary Gallegos, District 11; and Acting District Director Ken Nelson, District 12. Mike Brown, Chief California Highway Patrol, Southern Division, was also present.

A fascinating tour of the Alameda Corridor was conducted by Tim Buresh of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority. The \$2.4-billion Alameda Corridor project brought together the public and private sectors for the first consolidated rail link of its kind. It is among the largest public infrastructure projects in the United States. The Corridor project consolidates port access rail lines into a single, 20-mile rail cargo expressway linking the ports of Los

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## THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

**I**n reflecting back on the year 2000 one cannot help but remember how it all started — and that was with Y2K. With our excellent staff involvement in the Y2K effort, the concerns proved to be no concerns and the year 2000 was off to a great start.

During the past year Governor Gray Davis put his emphasis on a \$5.3-billion Transportation Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) to help improve mobility and relieve congestion for California's motorists. Halfway through the year Governor Davis appointed Jeff Morales as the new Caltrans Director. Mr. Morales has put an added emphasis on project delivery by challenging the Districts to improve on our processes so that our quality projects can be delivered quicker to our customers.

Here in Los Angeles plans for our new District Office Building are in motion with a master architect on board and the environmental process under way. As plans develop regarding parking and other issues, employees will be kept informed. Plans for the new Caltrans/ Highway Patrol Transportation Management Center (TMC) are being finalized and groundbreaking is expected at the Glendale Freeway (2)/Ventura Freeway (134) Interchange in the near future. A fall 2002 ribbon-cutting is anticipated. The Route 210 project (formerly Route 30) is well under way and just about every phase of the project is in the earth-work mode. The project is still on target for completion in 2002.

I would like to officially welcome Doug Failing to his new position as Chief Deputy District Director. And last year Raja Mitwasi took over as the new Division Chief for Program and Project

Management. I am very pleased with the responses from every employee in District 7 in implementing project management. This District has come together as a team to become one of the top project management districts. I am looking forward to working with Doug and our Division Chiefs for another successful year in 2001. I would also like to take this time to announce the retirements of some very dedicated career employees: Stan Lisiewicz, District 8 Director, a good friend and former outstanding District 7 Division Chief who will be missed; and Dave Servaes, excellent West Region Maintenance Manager. The best to both for a well-deserved retirement.

With the Governor's emphasis on congestion relief, Caltrans staff are involved in projects which are considered "long-standing projects." For example, those which have been around for a long time and not gone to construction, such as the Long Beach Freeway (710) from the San Bernardino Freeway (10) to the Foothill Freeway (210).

My special thanks to District 7 staff for your dedicated service to our customers in the year 2000. Each year the challenges become greater. Looking forward to the 2001 challenges where together we will continue to improve mobility across California. •

**ROBERT W. SASSAMAN**  
District Director



## Equal Opportunity Corner



Welcome to James Crouse, Caltrans' new Equal Opportunity Officer.

By Dorothy Osakwe, Equal Opportunity Officer

**T**he Equal Opportunity Office is happy to announce the addition of James Crouse to its staff. James, who is the new Equal Opportunity Officer for the Division of Maintenance, joined District 7 this past October. He will conduct equal opportunity classes and address other issues regarding equal opportunity matters as they pertain to the Division of Maintenance.

James transferred from the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), where he investigated housing discrimination complaints for the entire Southern California region. While under DFEH employ, he received extensive training in interviewing and investigation techniques, and he brings to District 7 a wealth of technical knowledge regarding equal opportunity laws and regulations. James said, "I am looking forward to taking a proactive stance in my position by promoting education of equal opportunity laws."

The staff of the Equal Opportunity Office would like to extend a hearty welcome to James and wish him the best of success in his career at Caltrans. Please feel free to contact James who is located in room 500-B. He may also be reached at (213) 897-3865. Welcome aboard, James! •

## Senator Sheila Kuehl Honors One Of Caltrans' Own

**S**ameer Haddadeen, Caltrans Senior Transportation Engineer, Office of Traffic Investigations, was recently honored with a special Certificate of Recognition from Senator Sheila Kuehl for exemplary service. Haddadeen has worked very closely with the Senator and her staff on important transportation issues involving Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) from Santa Monica to the Ventura County line. Haddaden is also a member of the PCH Task Force, a group spearheaded by Senator Kuehl and dedicated to safety on the highly traveled thoroughfare.

"Sameer has been a great representative of Caltrans and a key player in our effort to make PCH a safer highway," Senator Kuehl said. "He has served with distinction on the PCH Task Force, has gone out of his way to build relationships with the motorists, residents and business owners who utilize PCH, and he has helped us to be responsive to their concerns. The people who drive and walk along the Highway are safer because of Sameer."

According to Haddadeen, Senator Kuehl's efforts in developing a Task Force specific to the needs of PCH led to a more comprehensive understanding of safety and operational issues related specifically to PCH. The group was formed in 1998 and is comprised of such agencies as Caltrans; the California Highway Patrol; Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; the cities of Malibu, Santa Monica and Los Angeles; as well as local citizens' groups. He said, "I was delighted to be part of the PCH Task Force which helped foster closer partnerships with the members of the team, as we all worked toward the same goal of improving Pacific Coast Highway to improve mobility and safety for the motoring public." He noted that by working together the team was able to identify and imple-



*Left to right: Laurie Newman, aide to Senator Sheila Kuehl, Caltrans' Sameer Haddadeen and Senator Sheila Kuehl celebrate as Sameer is presented with the Senator's special Certificate of Recognition.*

ment team solutions to concerns of common interest.

Haddadeen said, "I proudly accept this award on behalf of all my staff members, especially Melvin Araki, Holton Siu and Son Dao, who made it possible through their hard work and dedicated efforts to accomplish so much in so little time. By giving, we have received recognition as an organization of foresight and commitment to the local communities."

Laurie Newman, aide to Senator Kuehl added, "Sameer Haddadeen has been a true partner on the PCH Task Force. As the person responsible for staffing the Task Force for Senator Kuehl, I can honestly say that I couldn't have done it without Sameer's assistance. In his commitment to the Task Force and to PCH, Sameer has gone the extra mile for every possible improvement on the Highway. I am thankful to have such a pleasant and talented individual to work with."

The certificate reads, "Presented to Sameer Haddadeen, in honor of your

dedicated participation on the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) Task Force. Your efforts to address the transportation challenges on PCH have had and will continue to have a significant impact on public safety for the entire community. Thank you for your dedication to this effort."

Haddadeen concluded, "I want to thank Senator Kuehl for bestowing this honor on me. And, I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Laurie Newman for her assiduous efforts in bringing the Task Force members together to address important issues on PCH, and for all the support she has given me throughout this endeavor. I look forward to continuing to work with the Task Force to further improve safety on PCH."

Congratulations to Sameer Haddadeen for receiving such outstanding accolades and many thanks for being such an outstanding representative of Caltrans! •



Left to right, Quarter Century Club officers and members, past present and future: Bill Stewart, treasurer; Robert W. Sassaman, District 7 Director; Tom Gildersleeve, outgoing club District Director; Tom Almany, incoming club District Director; Dave Roper, former Caltrans Deputy District Director; Ken Steele, former Districts 7 and 8 District Director; and Richard Huntwork, former club District Director.

## Quarter Century Club's Holiday Get-Together

**S**ome 100 members of Caltrans' Quarter Century Club gathered recently for a festive holiday luncheon and get-together. Taix's Restaurant in Downtown Los Angeles hosted the affair where the friendly group meets yearly during the holidays to eat, greet and share their Caltrans experiences and friendship. The unique club is comprised of retirees, as well as current employees, who boast 25 or more years of employment.

At the cheerful gathering, Robert W. Sassaman, District 7 Director, reported on the major accomplishments of the District during the past year and outlined his goals for 2001. Sassaman said, "It is always a pleasure to meet with the Quarter Century Club as we celebrate the holidays

together and reflect on our enjoyable years at Caltrans." Also during the day's agenda, incumbent officers introduced the incoming officers, and a great time was had by all.

Ray Hoyal, a retired Right of Way Engineer, and Larry Ornay, Maintenance Special Crews Manager, both arrived with their fathers who are Caltrans retirees. And Tom Almany, the incoming club District Director, said that three generations of Almanys have come through the Caltrans ranks.

Almany said it is great for the members to continue to keep in touch over the years and to maintain the many friendships with fellow colleagues and coworkers. He said, "I encourage anyone who is interested in joining the Quarter Century Club to please call me at (213) 897-4256." •



Left to right: Loida King, club member; Tom Almany, incoming club District Director and Maria Buntrock, club member. Loida and Maria help coordinate club events.



Tom Gildersleeve, left, outgoing club District Director, welcomes Tom Almany, incoming club District Director, to his new post.

## Editor's Note

Beginning February, 2001, each District's printed newsletter will be distributed with Headquarters' *CT News*, the department-wide newsletter. To ensure that District newsletters are consistent in style as well as content with our department-wide newsletter, *Inside Seven* will also have a new graphic style matching that of the *CT News*. Both *Inside Seven* and the *CT News* are distributed via email to employees for your convenience. Everyone is encouraged to stay informed by reading both interesting and informative publications monthly. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (213) 897-3630 or via email at [jeanne.bonfilio@dot.ca.gov](mailto:jeanne.bonfilio@dot.ca.gov).

**JEANNE BONFILIO**  
Editor

# ...RETIREE SPOTLIGHT...

*January 1957 to September 2000*



## Construction Expert Dottie Huff Retires

In the May, 1961 issue of the *Highway News Bulletin* (the predecessor to today's Caltrans *Inside Seven* employee District newsletter), it was reported that Dorothy "Dottie" Huff had the distinction of being the only woman engineering employee in the Division of Construction working in a field office. Working for her first field Construction Supervisor, Norm Brinkmeyer at the time, Dottie was an Engineering Aide I in the Pacoima Construction office assigned to the Golden State Freeway (I-5)/San Diego Freeway (I-405) project.

Today, Dottie Huff has the distinction of being happily retired after nearly 44 stellar years of service as one of the state's top experts regarding construction estimates. Her help and advice has been sought from all corners of the state for many years. She is known for her in-depth knowledge, problem-solving abilities, tact, expertise and guidance. Fortunately for Caltrans, Dottie has consented to return as a part-time annuitant to offer her invaluable experience and knowledge to those learning her position.

Brinkmeyer was one of over 160 people who attended Dottie's festive retirement luncheon. Friends, family members and Caltrans coworkers, past and present, joined in a tribute to Dottie at the beautiful Castaways restaurant in Burbank. Even her first Construction office supervisor, Hillard Bear, came to honor Dottie. And Caltrans contractors who she worked with throughout the years and who have come to know her as a friend, joined the celebration. Employees from Headquarters as well, including those from four other Districts, also came to say good luck to someone they had worked so closely with over the past 44 years. Representatives from the Girl Scouts of America and Pepperdine University, both organizations which Dottie is closely involved with, were on hand to praise their friend and wish her the happiest retirement.



At Dottie's retirement, former coworkers came to wish her well. Left to right: Norm Brinkmeyer, former Construction field supervisor; Dottie Huff; Robert Joe, former Construction office supervisor; and Dan Goble, former Office Chief, Construction.

Peter Chan, Division Chief, Construction said, "Dottie Huff retired from State service after nearly 44 years of dedicated and excellent work performance in the Division of Construction. She will be missed by all who were fortunate to have worked with her and who have learned from her over the years. We are very happy that she will continue to contribute to our success as a retired annuitant."

It's so nice to see Dottie still gracing the halls of the District Office Building as a part-time annuitant. Caltrans sends its congratulations and best wishes to Dottie Huff on her well-deserved retirement! •

# CALTRANS DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

## TEAM: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AT ITS BEST!



By Margie Tiritilli, Chief, Media Relations/Public Affairs

**M**onths before the Democratic National Convention (DNC) arrived at the Staples Center in Downtown Los Angeles, Caltrans, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the Los Angeles City Department of Transportation (LADOT) once again teamed-up to plan and implement strategies for keeping freeway and surface street traffic moving safely and efficiently while the eyes of the world looked on.

Who better to turn to than the same experts who skillfully kept commuters moving during the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles and again in 1994, when the Northridge Earthquake could have brought the Southland to total gridlock if it had not been for the leadership of Caltrans and its local agency partners.

To that end, Caltrans' Divisions of Operations, Maintenance and Construction juggled many roles: successfully carried out day-to-day routine activities; kept in close contact with the U. S. Secret Service and FBI to support their needs; was available around-the-clock to respond quickly to traffic/maintenance emergencies; and stopped congestion from developing on freeways and streets in and around Downtown Los Angeles.



Inside the Democratic National Convention, Governor Gray Davis addresses the audience.

Caltrans Director, Jeff Morales, said "Our Caltrans staff deserve a great deal of credit for keeping traffic flowing and the transportation system functioning during the Convention. They worked long hours and did a tremendous job of working with other State and local agencies to get the job done."

District Director Robert W. Sassaman noted that the reason for Caltrans' latest traffic management success was due to the fact that, "Considerable preparation by District 7's Maintenance and Operations staff paid off. We provided the necessary support to our CHP partners to keep the freeway system safe for our customers. My particular thanks to the men and women who spent long hours to provide this support."

Frank Quon, Division Chief, Operations, added, "This is another demonstration of the abilities of District 7's Operations and Maintenance personnel to effectively plan and execute a plan. In addition, a special team went to great lengths to ensure the operation of the closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras along the Santa Monica (10) Freeway prior to the DNC. There was excellent coordination between TMC support/ITS Development and Construction to make it all happen. I can't say enough about the dedication and professionalism of our staff in District 7. They truly are a 'can-do' team!"

As teams were quickly formed and assessments made, Caltrans traffic engi-



Michael Miles, Division Chief, Maintenance, (on telephone), works with law enforcement personnel at the DNC command center.

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# DNC

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neers and Maintenance staff along with those of LADOT, walked the streets of Los Angeles studying areas for possible temporary closures, detours, traffic signal retiming, parking restrictions, the use of air space to accommodate parking and restriping for one-way access. Caltrans and LADOT posted more than 120 directional signs between the Los Angeles International Airport and the Staples Center to assist residents and visitors in reaching their destinations in a timely manner. And like the 1984 Olympics, Caltrans and LADOT met with the California Trucking Association and area supermarkets who once again agreed to reschedule deliveries to avoid adding to congestion during the DNC event.

According to Michael Miles, Division Chief, Maintenance, "Our Maintenance staff shined. We are indeed fortunate to have such hard-working professional employees who were there every step of the way. Caltrans crews are second to none. I would like to thank them all." Miles also explained that valuable assistance was received from many of the Caltrans 12 Districts. He added, "Personnel and equipment from many other Districts proved invaluable to the DNC effort. I appreciate the diligence of the many people who worked 13-to-24 hour shifts and were here well before the convention to help with preparation and organization. They are to be commended."

Joonkoo Kang, Maintenance's DNC 2000 Project Manager said, "I was honored to serve as a member of Caltrans' team and to know that we helped to make the event a success. Caltrans, in partnership with the CHP, LADOT and the Los Angeles Police and Sheriff's Departments promptly and effectively responded to all incidents on the state freeway system to keep traffic flowing efficiently. And I want to thank District 7 management, Headquarters and the other Caltrans Districts 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 11 and 12 for their words of encouragement and generous support."

Another team of outstanding individuals who are always on the scene and perform superbly are Special Crews, and

"special" they are. Larry Ornay, Special Crews Region Manager said of his staff, "Before and during the DNC, Special Crews did a magnificent job of replacing or repairing highway lighting, replacing striping along with 72,000 reflective markers, refurbishing ramp and mainline stencils, installing and removing over 200 detour signs, replacing 500 damaged signs and removing over 30,000 square feet of graffiti from signs and bridges along routes leading into the Downtown area. All of these work accomplishments were carried out through a combined team effort involving all Special Crews forces and with the assistance of the other Regions."

Caltrans' Transportation Management Center (TMC) and LADOT's Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control (ATSAC) center coordinated their efforts to monitor all freeway and city traffic leading into and out of Downtown, much as they do for major events in Los Angeles. This included the use of both portable and freeway changeable electronic message signs in and around the area. Also, on-site staff were posted at vital locations for the purpose of making quick decisions involving additional closures or communicating the need for additional security.

Ray Higa, Chief, Office of District Traffic Manager said, "The DNC event was another example where the Caltrans team 'stepped up to the plate' and deliv-

ered a 'home run.' The success of this event is largely due to the 'can-do' performance of our Maintenance personnel with some assistance from those 'traffic people.' We were fortunate to work with a very cooperative staff of traffic engineers from the City of Los Angeles who provided us with vital information that allowed us to manage traffic on our freeways."

Alex Cajina, Equipment Superintendent Shop 7, said that equipment and staff coordination for the event began months before the DNC. Issues involved the types of equipment needed and 'round-the-clock support. Cajina said, "To support the diverse collection of equipment, mechanics were assigned to provide 24-hour support. The shop considered every equipment contingency in preparation for the event. Our crews did an outstanding job."

Law enforcement agencies played a critical role for the safety of all in the area. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), CHP and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department showed their presence, but were low-key and deserve credit for protecting the city and its visitors.

Every step of the way, the media checked in with Caltrans Media Relations/Public Affairs to get the latest

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Joonkoo Kang, DNC Project Manager, right, discusses DNC strategies at the Caltrans TMC with, left to right, Ray Higa, District Traffic Manager, David Lao, TMC Operator and Lieutenant William Pasley, California Highway Patrol.



Left to right: Joonkoo Kang, Michael Miles and Captain Steve Beeuwsaert, CHP, discuss DNC maps and master plans.

## DNC

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on freeway traffic conditions. Thanks to their superb efforts, the public was kept well-informed of roadway conditions in advance of travel plans. Another element that helped reduce traffic was the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) subway system. MTA reported an increase in ridership during this time. And construction contractors also played a key role in traffic management by agreeing to minimize road work and daytime closures in nearby areas during the Convention.

In summing up, Tom Choe, Manager of the TMC and Freeway Operations said, "The TMC engineers and operators were very busy following the activities of protestors, monitoring the road and ramp closures and updating our changeable message signs." Choe also explained that due to recent protests in Seattle, all were on heightened alert and Caltrans was prepared for any contingencies. He added, "I believe that because of the strong presence of law enforcement and the readiness of Caltrans' staff, the protestors were limited in what they could do to accomplish their goals. What an outstanding, cooperative accomplishment to realize that Caltrans and its partners succeeded in keeping traffic not only moving, but safely – much like the excel-

lent work that we do day in and day out. Come on Y2K? DNC? No problem!"

Special acknowledgements and congratulations to:

- Michael Miles, Division Chief of Maintenance who headed the DNC planning event for Caltrans, and Joonkoo Kang of Maintenance who did a superb job as Project Manager.

- Chuck Webster, North Region Maintenance Manager and his Maintenance staff who are always in the forefront enthusiastically working with the community and doing their best to prevent problems from developing.

- Nathaniel "Nate" Cradle, South Region Maintenance Manager and his Maintenance staff who were stationed at key locations around the city ready and prepared to send out emergency equipment to handle any freeway/roadway clean-up or meet the needs of law enforcement 24-hours-a-day.

- Milton Kizer, Jr., Communications Supervisor at the Caltrans TMC and his staff who serve 24-hours-a-day throughout the year. They are the "mini" global network between the office and field forces who are always one step ahead when it comes to relaying critical freeway information to their external and internal customers. Special kudos to Georgetta Blunt, Dispatcher, for all the "behind the scenes" work she performs so expertly on behalf of Caltrans.

- Operations Staff: Frank Quon, Division Chief and his staff: Ray Higa, Tom Choe, Steve Leung, Fred Sabin, Jr., Albert Yu, Osama Assaad, Sam Esquenazi, Yunus Ghausi, Rob Colvin, Sheik Moinuddin, Martin Oregel, Roger San Juan, James Mieding, Mike Yung, Lewis Yee, Grace Wang, Mario Dimen, Julie Inouye, Alebachew Bekele, Liem La, Tadeo Lau, Liem Phan and Janet Muramoto.

- Communications Staff: Michael Stine, Anthony Casanova, Billy Whitmore, Gary Almany, Mamie Jones, Gloria Thomas, Phillis Kemp and Esther Luna.

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Ron Thrash, Supervisor, left, and the Caltrans sign crew pose for a rare group photo and some of the many signs used specially for the DNC.

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• Maintenance Staff: William Almany III, Kevin Sciotto, Pam Dennis, Charles McDowell, Wayne Johnson, Larry Ornay, Marc Talavera, Alex Cajina, Bill Varley, Richard Gordon, Bill Gunn, Richard Hung, Alphonso Sanchez, Manuel McKinn, Resa Farahmand, Paul Drew, Don Sizemore, Rudy Gaona, Marvin Pruitt, Mike Lester, Rob Anderson, Jim Schiefer, Lillian Perez, Jesse Cooper, Steve Pimental, Monica Moreno and Alicia Green.

• Maintenance South Region: Kevin Sciotto, Doris Goff, Tom Muller, Tony Avent, Enoch Alvarado, Glen Mellinger, Roosevelt McCord, Curtis Domio, Doug Wells and Reggie Jones.

• Maintenance Special Crews: Larry Ornay, Ron Thrash, Rudy Gaona, Steve Wagner, Sammy Vargas, Gregory Moore, Alan Limjoco, David Cooper, Marc Duprey, Frank Martinez, Todd Johnson, Michael Washburn, Marvin Cotton, David Torres, Tuan Nguyen, Kenneth Thatcher, Benjamin Parson, Cynthia Edwards, William Serb, James McCauley, Harry Lewis, Jeffrey Hightower, Richard Salter, Wayne Vierra, Donald Mallett, Gene Carter, Charles Harding, Jesus Rodriquez,



With the DNC site just off camera and Los Angeles Police Department vehicles in place on Olympic Boulevard, Maintenance Supervisor Kevin Sciotto gets a bird's eye view of convention preparations on a picture-perfect day in Downtown Los Angeles.

Gerald Wortelboer, Joel Ogden, Frank Perales, Kanayo Nwobodo, George Molina, Juan Inchausti, Manuel Arismendez, Roy Webster, Hugo Hernandez, Benjamin Banuelos, David Gonzales, Jr., John Frazee, Calvin Dubuclet, Cesar Orozco, Frank Marquez, Jose A. Perez, Ed Bulgatz, Richard Angel, John Vasquez, Rodney Monroe, Rachel

Raicho, Raul Caban, Nicolas Flores, Mario Corleone, Edward Robles, Fred Isaac, Theresa Daily, Gilberto Moreno, Brian Dickerson, Daniel Anaya, Ralph Cabrera, Lynn Young, Gregory Brown, Davis Boos, Celia Gallardo, Juan Castaneda, Edward Castro, Eugene Williams, Jon Deno, James Thompson, Alexander Sabedra, Eulinda Moore, Michael Gill, Tom Jacobo, Alan Kato, Mark Ridgley, Douglas Asher, Doug Finch, Timothy Allee, Michael Markovich, Jeffrey Starks, Herbert Rogers, Rosie Luna, Jesus Hernandez, Joe Hernandez, David Omieczynski, Michael Soto, Richard Freeman, Leo Almada, Richard Ayala, Manuel Hernandez, Richard Macias, Van-Olvin Odom, Gary Hernandez, Charles Dinisi, Luisito Romero, Mickey Smith, Alfred Ramirez, David Lee Sanchez, Tony Soto, Edward Lizardi, Arnold Barrientos, Jose Villasenor, Garry Maston, Manuel Pereira, Alexander Taylor, Marcus Gonzales, Soloman Armond, Aaron Ganner, Norma Jurado, Robert Lino, Frank Martinez, Oscar J. Becerra, Steve Perez, Jr., Oscar Urias, Michael Jones and Rene Ochoa.

• Caltrans Tow Truck Operators: Doug Drexler, Ernest Sullivan, Shawn Hussey, Paul Dugan, Ron Witcher, Kevin Berry, Andy Mascola, Noreen Tonkin, Dave



South Region Maintenance personnel and other members of the top-notch DNC team, left to right, back row: Pat Joyce, Commissioner Spike Helmick, CHP; Emanuel Briseno, Pete Ramirez, District 7 Director Robert W. Sassaman, John Epilito, Glen Mellinger and Mark McCormick. Front row, left to right: Frankie Wells, Roosevelt McCord, Caltrans Director Jeff Morales, Kevin Sciotto, Andy Phillips and Gerald Ealey.

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## PROJECT MANAGEMENT UPDATE

### A Quarterly Report by Program and Project Management

**R**aja Mitwasi, Division Chief, Program and Project Management, is pleased to report that project management has become a reality in District 7. Mitwasi said, "I am noticing the improvements as all functional units move forward in applying project management strategies as they deliver District 7's many improvement projects." What this means, according to Mitwasi, is the functional units are ensuring their projects are being monitored closely, making sure their portions of each project are being delivered on time and within budget.

Mitwasi added, "Very importantly, the working relationships between Program and Project Management and the functional units have improved tremendously, mainly due to better communication and teamwork."

Project delivery is scheduled by fiscal year (fiscal year beginning July, 2000). Second quarter (October through December) project delivery, shows that the District is right on target, and some projects ahead of schedule. A sample of the current status chart is shown below:

**Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4** - fiscal year quarters

**TOTAL** - Totals at end of fiscal year

**P** - Number of projects planned and committed to (baseline)

**S** - Status of project (current)

**A** - Actual delivery (current)

**%** - Percent of project completed (current)

**PAED** - Project Approval and Environmental Document

**RWC** - Right of Way Certification

**RTL** - Ready to List

**CCA** - Contact Completion Acceptance

Project status is updated on an hourly basis. The goal is 100% project completion by the end of the fiscal year (under TOTAL). Mitwasi added, "I encourage everyone to review detailed reports of each project by logging on to the following website:

<http://10.56.20.168/PIRS/OP/summary.cfm>

"In addition I wish to thank the functional units responsible for keeping Caltrans' important improvement projects on track, on time and within budget." •

## Morales

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Angeles, Long Beach and San Pedro to the transcontinental rail yards east of Downtown Los Angeles. The project will create a more efficient way to distribute cargo throughout the United States and move U. S. exports to overseas markets, putting California's economy on the fast track to the future.

After the tour the group feasted on a sumptuous barbecue hosted by Century Maintenance Station personnel. Sassaman said, "I would like to

welcome Director Morales and his staff members to Los Angeles. In addition I would like to thank Michael Miles, Division Chief, Maintenance, and his staff for their assistance, including: Nate Cradle, Pam Dennis, Brenda Anderson, Caroline Pierson, Emma Griffin, Stacy Cowan, Charlotte Payton, Frankie Wells, Scott Okamora, Mike Willey, Kiniki Gordon, Marque Wilson, Doug Mackay and Robin Humphrey. They all did an outstanding job!"

What's more, Tom Choe, Office Chief, Operations, gave an educational presentation regarding a traffic study on the San Bernardino Freeway (10) from Route 15 to Downtown Los Angeles with the focus on the portion from the San Gabriel River Freeway (605) to the Long Beach Freeway (710). Sassaman added, "Many thanks to Tom Choe for his in-depth presentation. Tom and his staff are looking for ways to improve traffic flow and mobility through the Route 10 corridor, including a focus on utilization of transit and the local street system."

Sassaman concluded, "It was indeed a pleasure for District 7 to host Director Morales' meeting. Leading the way in the management of freeway transportation systems, Caltrans continues working together as a team to provide California with the most efficient freeway system in the world." •

	Q1					Q2					Q3					Q4					TOTAL			
	P	S	A	%		P	S	A	%		P	S	A	%		P	S	A	%		P	S	A	%
<b>PAED</b>	20	0	21	105%		14	0	10	71%		20	24	0	0%		6	5	0	0%		60	29	31	52%
<b>RWC</b>	4	0	7	175%		10	0	13	130%		19	7	2	11%		5	7	0	0%		38	14	22	58%
<b>RTL</b>	2	0	4	200%		14	0	9	64%		23	18	1	4%		5	11	0	0%		44	29	14	32%
<b>CCA</b>	5	0	14	280%		4	0	7	175%		16	10	0	0%		31	19	0	0%		56	29	21	38%

Project delivery status chart

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Thompson, Maris Stabulis, Jeff Pike and Tony Bass.

- District 4 Staff: Dave Inman
- Hazmat Coordinators: Willie Perales and Richard Crawford. Participants: Los Angeles County, United Pumping and Ocean Blue Environmental
- Caltrans Equipment Mechanics:
  - CHP Field Support/Cherry Street: Jerry McClure, Jen Chu and Paul Ward
  - Century Maintenance Station: John Bernath and Monroe Highley
  - Alameda Maintenance Station: Bill Brown and Robert Chavez
  - Silverlake Maintenance Station: Ed Vincente and Rafael Ronquillo
  - North Hollywood Maintenance Shop: Gene Shipley, Rodney Jones, Phil Ward, Dan Wagness, Jay Kimball, Blaine Huling and Joe Penna
  - Transport Service: Mike McPartland
- Tire Repair Services: Daniel's Tire Service, Rudy's Tire Service and Alfredo's Tire Service
- Construction – Electrical South: Amy Mao, Luke Nguyen, Hassan Jaber, Michael Quach, Bernard Alonso, George Onyegboduo.
- Other Districts' Involvement and Equipment:
  - District 3: Snoopers (bridge inspection equipment) with operators
  - District 4: Tow trucks (about 10) with operators
  - District 5: Sweeper
  - District 6: Sweepers
  - District 8: Snoopers and sweepers with operators
  - District 10: Motor home
  - District 11: Motor homes and sweepers
  - District 12: Sweepers and personnel hoist with operators

For all-around traffic planning and management; safe freeways and streets; plus going the "extra mile" to extend hospitality to out-of-town guests, Los Angeles and California earned an Olympic "10" thanks to the multi-agency teams of Caltrans, CHP, LADOT, LAPD, Los

Angeles County Sheriff's Department, MTA and the many others who worked behind the scenes. The end result of this well-planned and executed traffic management operation was that motorists were able to maneuver in and around Downtown Los Angeles with minimal impact. Enough cannot be said of the

enormous team effort. This was indeed a mighty show of traffic management at its best! •



Mr. Robert W. Sassaman  
District Director

Dear Mr. Sassaman:

In August, the City we serve each day took the world stage as elected officials, delegates, the national press corps and other visitors descended on Los Angeles for the Democratic National Convention (DNC). The DNC itself chose Los Angeles in part because of our ability to design and deliver a successful "game plan." Whatever the task, we collectively proved our professionalism and versatility once again.

The public may never realize the tremendous amount of planning, preparation and execution required of our various City departments and other agencies to provide essential services to an event of this magnitude, however, Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) employees are appreciative of the commitment of all our colleagues in meeting the needs of our guests and ensuring a safe and orderly environment throughout the convention.

Our "front line" personnel such as our traffic officers, field crews, transit ambassadors, taxi investigators and crossing guards truly kept Los Angeles moving along through the heat, the

crowds and the added pressure of so much scrutiny. But to be successful, we needed your help. The contributions of Caltrans made it possible for us to fulfill all our responsibilities, and we thank you for your leadership and commitment.

We wish to also thank those members of your staff who worked with us on any number of assignments related to the DNC. For weeks, or even months, your staff balanced the deadline-driven demands of DNC work assignments with regular duties and responsibilities to meet this challenge with great success. In particular, we would like to recognize the following individuals for their assistance: Mr. Frank Quon, Mr. Ray Higa, Mr. Fred Sabin, Jr. and Mr. Michael Miles. These colleagues provided invaluable assistance throughout this project and add a special dimension of professionalism and commitment to any assignment.

Again, thank you for all the teamwork and spirit of achievement. Congratulations from LADOT for a job well done.

Sincerely,

Frances T. Banerjee, General Manager  
City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation

## What's **Cookin' At Caltrans**

### WINTER WARMER-UPPERS

#### UCLA BROCCOLI CHEESE SOUP

1/2 pound broccoli, chopped	3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1-1/2 cups lightly salted boiling water	3-1/2 cups evaporated milk
2 tablespoons minced onions	4 cups non-fat milk
1/2 cup melted butter or margarine	3-1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
Salt and pepper to taste	

Cook broccoli until tender in lightly salted boiling water, then drain. Cook onion in butter until tender but not brown; blend in flour. Add evaporated and non-fat milks; cook and stir until smooth and thickened. Add cheese and broccoli; season to taste with salt and pepper. Stir until cheese is melted. Heat soup through, but DO NOT boil. Makes 8 servings. (Note: low-fat cheeses and canned milks can be used.)

#### CAJUN-STYLE CHILI WITH PORK

2 pounds ground pork	2 large onions, chopped
4 cloves garlic, minced	1 each sweet red and green bell pepper, chopped
3 stalks celery, chopped	1 can (28 ounces) tomatoes
1 can (28 ounces) kidney beans, drained	1/2 teaspoon hot pepper flakes
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper	1 teaspoon dried oregano
Dash hot pepper sauce	Salt, pepper and chili powder to taste

Cook pork over medium heat; stir to break up meat for about 5 minutes or until browned. Add onions; cook until tender. Add garlic, peppers and celery. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until vegetables are softened. Add tomatoes; breaking them up with back of spoon. Stir in kidney beans, hot pepper flakes, oregano, cayenne pepper, hot pepper sauce, salt, pepper and chili powder. Bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer 20 minutes. (If you prefer a more traditional taste, use cumin instead of oregano.)



## Inside Seven

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